



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 19, 2007

S. 261

Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 15, 2007

S. 261 would make buying, selling, or transporting animals for participation in animal fighting ventures (defined as any event which involves a fight between at least two animals and is conducted for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment) a federal crime. The bill also would prohibit any person from using certain forms of communication in interstate commerce to promote an animal fighting venture. Because those prosecuted and convicted under this legislation could be subject to criminal fines, the government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. However, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved, CBO expects that any impact on revenues and direct spending would be insignificant.

In addition, CBO expects that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations also would be insignificant and subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 261 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 261 would impose private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, but CBO expects that cost of complying with those mandates would be small and well below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

S. 261 would prohibit any person from knowingly selling, buying, transporting, or delivering in interstate or foreign commerce any sharp instrument attached or intended to be attached to the leg of a bird for use in animal fighting. The bill also would prohibit any person from using certain forms of communication in interstate commerce to promote an animal fighting venture. Based on information from government and other sources, CBO estimates that the direct cost to comply with those prohibitions would be small and well below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates.

On February 16, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on February 7, 2007. The two bills are identical, as are the cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for federal costs) and Amy Petz (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.